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Only***DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****INFORMATION SERVICE****COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES**

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The New England vessel fisheries, hard hit by loss of boats to the military services during the early years of the war, are having the most successful year since 1941 and have landed nearly 25 percent more fish than during the comparable period of 1943, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

Landings at Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland, major fishing ports of the area, totaled 159,893,931 pounds for the first five months of the year, compared with 129,393,179 pounds during the same period last year.

The port of Gloucester reported the largest May landings in its history--23,868,968 pounds--with rosefish the most important single item in the catch, followed by mackerel, cod and haddock.

Boston trailed Gloucester during May with total landings of 16,987,615 pounds, and New Bedford reported 13,589,191. Portland, smallest of the four ports, received 1,895,510 pounds.

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